


D.

THE MANUSCRIPT OF HENRY VI.

ERTAYNE Questyons, wyth Awnswers to the same, concernynge the Mystery of Maçonrye ; Wryttenne by the Hande of Kinge Henrye, the Sixthe of the Name, and faythfullye copyed by me, Johan Leylande, Antiquarius, by the Commaunde of his Highnesse.

They be as followethe :

Q. What mote ytt be ?

A. Ytt beeth the skylle of nature, the understandynge of the myghte that ys hereynne, and its sondrye werckynges ; sonderlyche, the skylle of rectenyngs, of waightes, and metynges, and the treu manere of faconnyng all thynges for manne's use, headlye, dwell-ynges, and buyldynges of alle kindes, and alle odher thynges that make gudde to manne.

Q. Where dyd ytt begynne ?

A. Ytt dyd begynne with the ffyrste menne yn the este, which were before the ffyrste manne of the weste, and comynge westlye, ytt hathe brought herwythe alle comfortes to the wylde and comfortlesse.

Q. Who did brynge ytt westlye ?

A. The Venetians, whoo, beyng grate merchaundes, comed ffyrste ffromme the este ynn Venetia, ffor the commodytye of marchaundysynge beithe easte and weste, by the Redde and Myddlelonde sees.

Q. Howe commede ytt yn Engelonde ?

A. Peter Gower, a Grecian, journeyedde ffor kunnyng yn

Egypte, and yn Syria, and yn everyche land whereas the Venetians hadde plauntedde Maçonrye, and wynnage entraunce yn al lodges of Maçonnes, he lerned muche, and retournedde and woned yn Grecia Magna wachsynge, and becommynge a myghtye wyseacre, and gratelyche renowned, and her he framed a grate lodge at Groton and maked manye Maçonnes, some whereoffe dyd journeye yn Fraunce, and maked manye Maçonnes, wherefromme, yn processe of tyme, the arte passed yn Englelonde.

Q. Do the Maçonnes descouer here artes unto odhers?

A. Peter Gower, whenne he journeyedde to lerne, was ffyrste made, and anonne techedde; evenne so shulde all odhers beyn recht. Natheless Maçonnes hauethe always yn everyche tyme from tyme to tyme communicatedde to mankynde soche of her secrettes as generallyche myghte be usefulle; they haueth keped backe soche allein as shulde be harmfulle yff they commed yn euylle hanndes, oder soche as ne myghte be holpyng wythouten the techynges to be joynedde herwythe in the lodge, oder soche as do bynde the freres more stronglyche together, bey the proffyte, and commodytie commynge to the confrerie herfromme.

Q. Whatte artes haueth the Maçonnes techedde mankynde?

A. The arts agricultura, architectura, astronomia, geometria, numeres, musica, poesie, kymistrye, governmente, and relygyonne.

Q. Howe commethe Maçonnes more teachers than odher menne?

A. The hemselve haueth allein in arte of fyndynge neue artes, whyche arte the ffyrste Maçonnes receaued from Godde; by the whyche they fyndethe whatte artes hem plesethe, and the treu way of techynge the same. Whatte odher menne doethe ffynde out, ys onelyche bey chaunce, and herefore but lytel I tro.

Q. Whatte dothe the Maçonnes concele and hyde?

A. They concelethe the art of ffyndynge neue artes and thatt ys for here own proffyte, and preise; they concelethe the art of kepyng secrettes, thatt soe the worlde mayeth nothings concele from them. They concelethe the art of wunderwerckynge, and of fore sayinge thynges to comme, that so thay same artes may not be usedde of the wyckedde to an euylle end; they also concele the arte of chaunges, the wey of wynnynge the facultye of Abrac, the skylle of becommynge gude and parfyghte wythouten the holpynges of fere and hope; and the universelle longage of Maçonnes.

Q. Wylle he teche me thay same artes?

A. Ye shalle be techedde yff ye be werthye, and able to lerne.

Q. Dothe alle Maçonnes kunne more then odher menne?

A. Not so. Thay onlyche haueth recht, and occasyonne more then odher menne to kunne, butt many doeth fale yn capacity, and manye more doth want industrie, thatt ys perneccessarye for the gaynyngge all kunnyngge.

Q. Are Maçonnes gudder menne then odhers?

A. Some Maçonnes are not so vertuous as some odher menne; but, yn the moste parte, they be more gude then thay would be yf thay war not Maçonnes.

Q. Doth Maçonnes love eidher odher myghty lyas beeth sayde?

A. Yea verylyche, and yt may not odherwise be; for gude menne, and true, kennynge eidher odher to be soche, doeth always love the more as thay be more gude.

Here endethe the questyonnes and awnsweres.